

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 14, 16 to 22, 24 to 30 and 32 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 17 and 25 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Office Action entered a rejection of all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), primarily over U.S. Patent 6,149,323 (Shima). Thus, Claims 1 to 4, 9 to 12, 17 to 20 and 25 to 28 were rejected under § 103(a) over Shima; Claims 5 to 7, 13 to 15, 21 to 23 and 29 to 31 were rejected over Shima in view of U.S. Patent 5,768,483 (Maniwa); and Claims 8, 16, 24 and 32 were rejected over Shima in view of Maniwa and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,424,429 (Takahashi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested, for the reasons set out below.

The invention concerns a print driver by which an information processing apparatus can produce printing data which is interpretable by a printer based on document data produced by an application. Such print drivers often rely on a combination of settings in order to produce the printing data. According to one feature of the invention, it is possible to temporarily change one or more of the setting values without necessarily affecting a registration of the combined settings.

Thus, as set out in the claims herein, each value of a plurality of setting items are combined into a combined setting to produce the printing data, and the combined setting is registered by name in a combined setting list, whereby setting of the setting items

is performed via a setting sheet. One of the combined settings is selected by designating a name thereof, and each value of the plurality of setting items is displayed. A setting value of a predetermined one of the setting items is registered, and when a combined setting includes the setting value of the predetermined setting item, a temporary option is added to the item setting list for assigning the temporary option to the setting value of the predetermined setting item so that the combined setting temporarily utilizes the setting value of the predetermined setting item.

By virtue of the foregoing arrangement, it is possible to temporarily alter printing settings without necessarily affecting a registration of combined settings. That is, if a selected one of the combined settings includes a setting value of a predetermined setting item that has been registered, a temporary option is added to the setting item list and the temporary option is assigned to the setting value of the predetermined setting item, such that the combined setting temporarily utilizes the setting value of the predetermined setting item.

The foregoing arrangement is not seen to be disclosed or suggested by any of the applied patents to Shima, Maniwa and Takahashi. In particular, none of these patents is seen to disclose or to suggest temporary alteration to a combined setting with the temporary alteration not affecting a registration of the combined settings. Thus, these patents could not possibly disclose or suggest the arrangement set out above, in which if a combined setting includes a setting value of a predetermined registered setting item, then a temporary option is added to the item setting list and the temporary option is assigned to the setting value of the predetermined setting item included in the combined setting so that

the combined setting temporarily utilizes the setting value of the predetermined setting item.

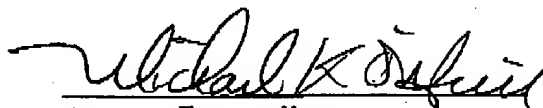
In entering its rejection of Claims 6 and 7, the Office Action took the position that Shima discloses a change in setting values, including the step of adding a temporary option to a selection list and assigning the temporary option to the setting item. See page 6 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As understood by Applicant, the cited portions of Shima are unrelated to the terms of the amended claims, which specify that if a combined setting includes a setting value of a predetermined registered setting item, then a temporary option is added to the item setting list and the temporary option is assigned to the setting value of the predetermined setting item included in the combined setting so that the combined setting temporarily utilizes the setting value of the predetermined setting item.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the claims herein are fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that entry of this amendment is proper, even though the application is subject to a rejection that has been marked "final". In particular, the subject matter of the amended claims is based on the now-canceled subject matter of original Claim 7, such that the subject matter has already been considered by the Examiner. Accordingly, given the overall familiarity with the subject matter of the amended claims, it is not thought that entry of the amendment would require significant consideration or burdensome search, such that entry would be proper. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested to enter this amendment and to consider it on its merits.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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